

THE BIG MOVE

February 11, 2011

We decided it would be best to get an early start. Dana Wynen and Dr. Jeaneyl Hazlett DVM arrived at 7 am. We decided it would be best if we gave Paul some of his antihistamine, since it made him sleepy. Paul had a nasty chest cold 2 weeks before we had to move him and this had us very concerned about the whole move. He was on antibiotics and antihistamines for 2 weeks prior. Keith opened the roll cage door, Paul hesitated for a moment. With some coaxing from Jay Paul climbed in, Keith shut the gate and that was that. Keith winched his cage into the trailer and we proceeded with T.J. (after deciding to give him some of Paul's antihistamines) who also went right into the roll cage without any problems. We loaded him into the trailer and closed the gate.



Judy and Georgia rode with the tigers. Paul did great, scared but behaved. T.J. on the other hand, started looking around for things to get into. We pulled over at a McDonalds. Once T.J. saw people he became the ham that he is, we gave them some water and started down the highway. Ten minutes later we pulled over to sedate T.J. who was now worked up again.





That is all it took. The rest of the ride was smooth. We finally got to Branson around 3:30-4:00pm. We rolled T.J. out of the trailer, put him next to the enclosure, attached the roll cage to the enclosure and opened the door. Still a bit unsteady from the sedative, he walked out of the roll cage, went outside and started rolling around in the snow like he had lived there forever.



Paul's roll cage gave us a bit of a problem since one of the brand new caster wheels bent. Keith had to use his ingenuity and figured out how to straighten it out which was not an easy task. Paul was a perfect little guy, he just sat there. We finally got him down, rolled him to his enclosure and opened the door. Paul went out and stared chuffing at T.J. After they ate, they both settled down for the night.

February 15, 2011

Another early start at 6:30am. Keith put the hallway for the girls up and attached the roll cages. Sierra walked right into the roll cage with food. Then it was Mariah's turn. He opened the door and she went in with no problems. We then winched their cages into the trailer. Sierra kept acting nervous, and Mariah just sat there.



We decided it would be best if we gave Sierra a mild sedative, since she would not settle down. Finally after a half hour, Jack Minogue, Jay and Keith were on their way to Branson. The rest of the ride was fine. The girls were greeted by Judy when they got there. They both

went into their enclosures and started chuffing immediately. Mariah found her automatic water dispenser immediately and started drinking from it.

February 18, 2011



We began the day early since we were moving so many animals at one time. At 5:00 am Ron Brown was at the door. Dr. Hazlett and Marvin Holzbach showed up soon after and Dana spent the night so we would all be ready to go early. Keith got Dee's roll cage out, secured it to her door, and he and Jay waited for her to go in. Dee would walk up to the roll cage put her two front feet in and then back out. She did that four times. The fifth time, she went all the way in and Keith closed the door. Because she seemed a bit nervous about the whole procedure, we decided to give her a mild sedative.



It was now Max's turn. We put a piece of food in the roll cage, opened the door and he just walked right in. At about 6:30 am, Donna Dupske arrived to babysit the remaining dogs and cats. Vince was next in line. Vincent was a bit unsure, but he walked in, took the piece of food, backed out of the roll cage and proceeded to eat the food in his enclosure. Keith put another piece of food a little further back this time. That worked! He walked all the way in and Keith shut the door. Since he seemed a bit anxious we decided to give him a mild sedative also.

With all the tigers in their roll cages, we went to see about Banshee. Unfortunately for us, she knew what was up so she refused to go into her carrier. We decided to just leave her alone for a while and finish loading the tigers into the trailers.



It is now about 8am. Once we started moving, Dee got very upset so we gave her a little more sedative. When all the tigers were loaded, Keith and Judy went into the garage alone and managed to get Banshee in her carrier. Ron and Keith loaded her into the trailer, the rest of us took her enclosure down and loaded it onto another trailer.



We put Smokey (house cat) in the trailer since he was in a big carrier that wouldn't fit anywhere else. Jay rode in the back of the trailer with Dee, Banshee and Smokey, which Ron was pulling. Judy and Georgia got in the trailer with Max and Vince. Dana got in the truck that Keith was driving with Zeus, Poochie and Tinker (all dogs). Dr. Hazlett drove Marvin's truck with Mr. Kitty, Woody and Bandit (all house cats) and pulled her trailer. We found out later Mr. Kitty protested the whole ride down to Branson! Marvin drove Jay's truck and pulled another trailer. Off we went!! It was now about 9:30-10am. Seven miles down the road, we decided to pull over to sedate Max. He decided he wanted to be with Vince. What seemed a half hour later, Jay asked everyone to pull over. Dee and Banshee started acting up. We gave Banshee a mild sedative and gave Dee another dose. She was calm by now, so Judy was able to inject her by hand. We also decided since we were pulled over, it was time to sedate Vince again. Judy wound up just popping him in the hip by hand also. It was now 11:30am. Judy and Georgia decided to sit with Dee and Banshee and had Dana and Jay stay with the boys.



A half hour later, Judy and Georgia were calling on the walkie-talkies to pull over, because Dee started getting antsy again, grabbing the cage bars. We decided to use a stronger sedative on her this time. It is now 12pm.

Around 3:30 we pulled over at a rest stop since it was time to give Max another dose of sedative. Judy once again just did it by hand since he was cooperating with us.

We finally arrived at about 5-5:30pm. We started with Dee. While we unloaded her, Jay and Austin Snider were finishing last minute preparations in Dee's enclosure. Keith, Judy and Jack Minogue, along with Dr. Hazlett and Marvin started tending to Vincent. Dee was so disoriented she was afraid to go inside the barn. It took some coaxing, but she finally did it.

(Due to the fact that it was getting dark and how fast we needed to get the cats out, we did not have time to take pictures of all the releases).

Vincent was easy. He unloaded easily, when we opened the door he went right in. Next, we had to sedate Banshee to get her out. About 20 minutes later she was ready to go. We got her in and situated, and opened the door. Banshee walked out, a bit wobbly but eagerly checked everything out.

While everyone went back to release Max, who also walked out like he did this all the time, Dana and Georgia went to get the cats dinner ready. Ron, Austin and the girls unloaded 1,500 lbs of beef into the freezers, and fed the cats.

By 8:30pm we had everyone settled, and fed. Jack went and got pizza for everyone. We quickly devoured the pizza, then went back out to check on the cats again. They all chuffed at us happily. We were finally home!